

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DRC-01 /076 W

----- 071204

R 251404Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1855

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HAMBURG

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1785

TUNIS PLEASE PASS TO SLEZAK AT LABATT CONFERENCE

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ETRN, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH DOCK STRIKE

1. SUMMARY: LARGEST OF TWO UNIONS FIGHTING TO CONTROL SWEDISH DOCKWORKERS HAS STURCK, CLOSING MOST SWEDISH PORTS. ISSUE IS OVER WHICH UNION WILL NEGOTIATE WITH EMPLOYERS ON NATIONAL DOCKWORKERS AGREEMENT. THE STRIKING HARBORWORKERS, AN INDEPENDENT UNION, HAVE LITTLE FUNDS AND WE DO NOT EXPECT STRIKE TO LAST LONG. END SUMMARY.

1. INDEPENDENT SWEDISH HARBORWORKERS' UNION CALLED STRIKE APRIL 24 OVER JURISDICTIONAL ISSUE. UNION CONTROLS MAJORITY OF DOCKWORKERS AND RIVAL TRANSPORT-WORKERS' UNION CONTROLS REST. SITUATION UNCLEAR AT UNCLASSIFIED

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MOMENT BUT MOST MAJOR SWEDISH PORTS CLOSED WITH

EXCEPTION OF MALMO, VASTERAS, OSKARSHAMM AND MON-
STERAS. STOCKHOLM AND SUNDSVALL COMPLETELY CLOSED.
SWEDEN'S LARGEST PORT, GOTHENBURG, IS REPORTEDLY
STILL PARTIALLY OPERATING AS BOTH UNIONS ACTIVE THERE,
BUT ESTIMATE IS THAT VERY FEW IF ANY SHIPS CAN
EXPECT TO CLEAR GOTHENBURG IF STRIKE CONTINUES.
PASSENGER TRAFFIC UNAFFECTED.

2. AT ISSUE IS HARBORWORKERS ATTEMPT TO GET RECOG-
NITION FROM EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE CURRENTLY BEEN NEGO-
TIATING ONLY WITH TRANSPORTWORKERS UNION (SEE REFTELS).
APPARENTLY THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE NEAR CONCLUSION AND
TRANSPORTWORKERS ARE CLOSE TO SIGNING "NATIONAL" WAGE
AGREEMENT FOR ALL DOCKWORKERS, LEAVING HARBORWORKERS
IN LIMBO. PRESENT STRIKE IS ATTEMPT TO FORCE EMPLOYERS
TO NEGOTIATE WITH HARBORWORKERS. GOVERNMENT SO FAR
HAS BEEN PLAYING CAUTIOUS ROLE, WHICH IS USUAL PATTERN
IN SWEDEN, AND HAS LIMITED ITSELF TO APPOINTING "CON-
CILIATION COMMISSION." HOWEVER IF STRIKE CONTINUES
SWEDEN'S ECONOMY WILL BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED AND
GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO STEP IN. ITS ROLE COMPLI-
CATED BY FACT THAT ONE OF PARTIES, TRANSPORTWORKERS,
IS AFFILIATED WITH LO WHICH HAS ALMOST CONTROLLING
POWER OVER SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

3. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HARBORWORKERS CAN STAY OUT
LONG AS UNION HAS VIRTUALLY NO STRIKE FUNDS AND IS
NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY CENTRAL SWEDISH OR INTERNATIONAL
LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. HOWEVER, BY PLAYING ON GOLIATH-
DAVID THEME IT IS APPARENTLY GAINING CONSIDERABLE
PUBLIC SYMPATHY AND COULD RECEIVE ENOUGH CONTRIBUTIONS
FROM PUBLIC TO KEEP STRIKE GOING FOR A TIME.
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